

Michigan Wetlands Association Annual Conference

August 30 – September 2, 2011 near Traverse City, Michigan

General Conference Information

Transitions in Wetland Science, Management and Policy

Wetland Management in Response to Climate Change

Current Issues in Wetland Policy and Regulation

Wetlands and Watersheds

The **Michigan Wetlands Association** invites you to attend and participate in our annual meeting at the Grand Traverse Resort. Along with a special symposium on climate change adaptations and wetlands, this professional conference will include tracks on current issues in state and federal wetland policy and regulation; and on the protection, management and monitoring of wetlands at the watershed level.

Who should participate and attend?

Expected participants include wetland managers and scientists from state, tribal, local, and federal resource agencies, wetland consultants, colleges and universities, non-profit organizations, and other interested citizens.

Organized by:



With support from:



www.miwetlands.org

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS



Symposium on Climate Change Adaptation and Wetlands

Climate change is both a pressing and an overwhelming issue. However, actions such as targeted wetland preservation and restoration can offer improved water management (to address both increased flooding and drought conditions), preserve or improve wildlife migration corridors, and support biodiversity. This symposium – supported by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Coastal Management Program and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration -- will bring together state, regional and national experts to investigate how wetland management can meet multiple goals, including climate change adaptation, and encourage incorporation of those goals into overall project planning. The Association of Wetland Managers will prepare recommendations on state actions following the Symposium.



Recent and Proposed Changes in State and Federal Wetland Policy

2009 amendments to Michigan's wetland regulations established the Wetland Advisory Council (WAC) to evaluate potential streamlining or other modification of the regulatory program. Presentations may address the status of the work of the WAC, and other ongoing state initiatives. Proposed federal regulatory changes – including reissuance of the Corps Nationwide Permits, and proposed U.S. Environmental Protection Agency/Corps guidance on the scope of jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act will also be addressed.



Wetland Protection and Management at the Watershed Level

Significant advancements are being made in the evaluation of wetland resources at a watershed scale, using remote mapping tools, modeling of wetland condition and function using GIS tools, and local conservation and stewardship. Watershed level management of wetlands may encompass stewardship of habitat and management of water quantity and quality.



Great Lakes Coastal Wetland Monitoring

A special pre-conference workshop by invitation for states and provinces participating in Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funded coastal wetland monitoring projects. The purpose is to bring together both academic participants and government agencies to share information on progress to date and to plan for dissemination and use of data collected through this project.



Field trips

Field trips will take place on Friday, September 2nd. Trips being organized may include:

- Kayak tour of Boardman River wetlands
- "Wine and Wetlands" tour – with a view of local wetland management, and more...
- Demonstration of coastal wetland monitoring methods

Final details on field trips and registration will be available on the Web by mid-June.



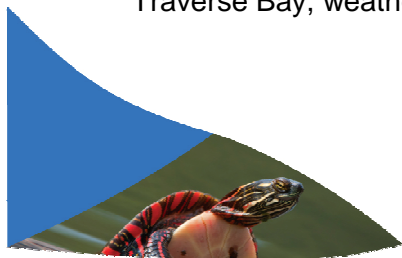
Exhibits

Exhibit space will be provided for vendors as well as government agencies and non-profits organizations. Go to www.miwetlands.org in mid-June for fees and registration information.



Networking

Conference fee includes lunches, morning and afternoon breaks, and informal mixers. For an additional cost of \$25, participants can enjoy a Tuesday evening reception on the shore of Grand Traverse Bay, weather permitting.



VENUE

The Grand Traverse Resort in Acme, MI (near Traverse City on the east arm of Grand Traverse Bay) is certified as a "Leader" by Green Lodging Michigan and has an Environmental Commitment. Special conference room rates are \$139 per night, double or single, and they will also accept government rates of \$65 state, \$77 federal (respective ID required). An additional daily resort fee of \$11.95 per night will be charged – this fee provides access to beachfront facilities, indoor and outdoor pools and the fitness center, reduced rates for golf and tennis, and other services. Conference room rates will be honored two days before and after the conference for those who may wish to stay for the holiday weekend.

NOTE: *Participants must reserve their own lodging by contacting the Grand Traverse Resort at 1-800-968-7352 - indicate that you will be attending the Michigan Wetlands Association Meeting. Please reserve rooms prior to **August 8, 2011** to ensure availability.*

REGISTRATION

Please refer to the conference website, www.miwetlands.org, in mid-June for registration information and forms. **Reduced fees will be offered for early bird registration starting mid-June through July 15, 2011. Registration will close August 15, 2011.**

Members: \$225 early bird, \$250 regular
Non-Members: \$245 early bird, \$270 regular
Students: \$150 (early or regular)

EXHIBITORS

Covered tables may be reserved in the exhibit area – to be open during breaks and meals – by nonprofit or government agencies, or by commercial vendors. Reduced fees are available for nonprofit organizations. Please refer to the conference website, www.miwetlands.org, in mid-June for additional information or to reserve a space.

SPONSORS

We invite your organization to consider supporting the Michigan "Transitions" conference. Depending upon the level of support, sponsors will receive free registrations, recognition in printed materials, and exhibit space. For additional sponsorship information, please refer to the conference website, www.miwetlands.org or contact the conference co-chairs.

SUMMARY OF 2011 CONFERENCE DEADLINES

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| ✓ July 15 | Early Bird Registration Deadline |
| ✓ August 8 | Grand Traverse Resort Reservation Deadline |
| ✓ August 15 | Conference and Field Trip Registration Deadline |



GENERAL SCHEDULE

<i>Tues, August 30</i>	Pre-conference meeting: Great Lakes Coastal Wetland Monitoring Consortium project (by invitation) Exhibitor set-up Informal evening mixer & check in
<i>Wed., August 31</i>	Opening plenary - including keynote speaker on climate change adaptation Afternoon concurrent sessions Evening reception at the beach (optional)
<i>Thurs. Sept. 1</i>	MWA Business Meeting (open) – Breakfast Morning and afternoon concurrent sessions Closing plenary Exhibitor tear-down
<i>Fri, Sept. 2</i>	Continental breakfast Field trips (optional)



CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS

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CONFERENCE INFORMATION ALERTS

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